

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the following remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. **If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.**

The communication indicated that the amendment filed on September 24, 2007 was not fully responsive because (1) a response to the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection was omitted, and (2) a correction to the flow diagram of Figure 10 was not submitted. Each of these items is addressed below.

With regard to the provisional rejection of claims 1-3 and 15-17 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 and 13-15 of copending application no. 10/654,265, the applicants do not wish to file a terminal disclaimer at this time, but reserve the right to do so (e.g., if and when copending application no. 10/654,265 issues as a patent and the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection becomes non-provisional).

With regard to the correction of the flow diagram of Figure 10, the undersigned noted in a telephone discussion with Examiner Robinson on December 12, 2007 that the amendment to the specification on page 2 of the

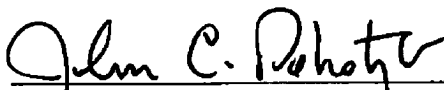
previously filed amendment adequately addressed the Examiner's objection. Examiner Robinson agreed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, as well as the amendments and remarks in the previously filed amendment, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

January 7, 2008

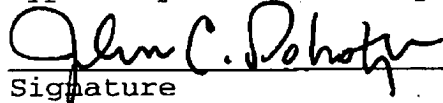

John C. Pokotylo, Attorney
Reg. No. 36,242
Tel.: (732) 542-9070

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (and any accompanying paper(s)) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent Office on the date shown below.

John C. Pokotylo

Type or print name of person signing certification


Signature

January 7, 2008

Date